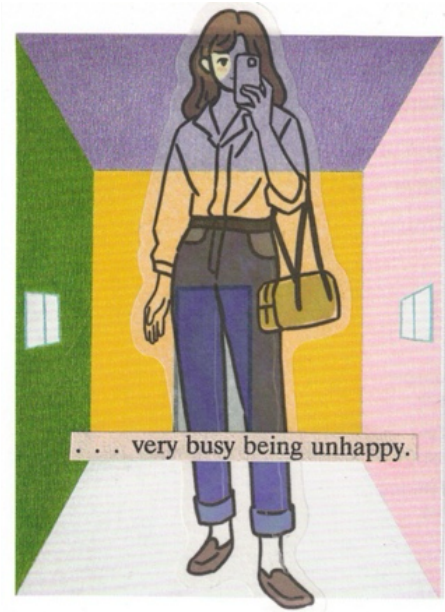
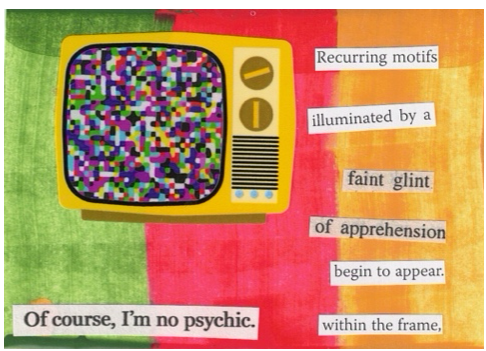
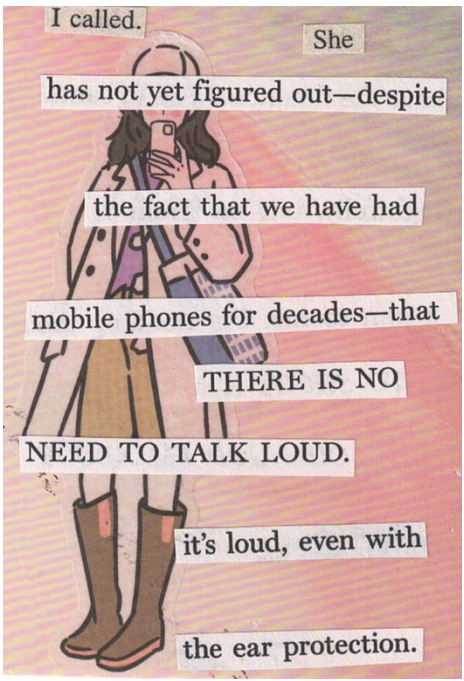


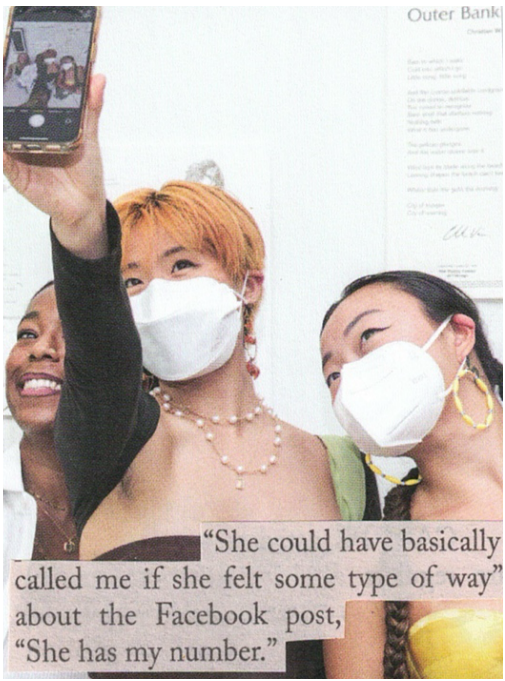
a meditation on screentime

miniature collages
murphyao ink
chicago
2025

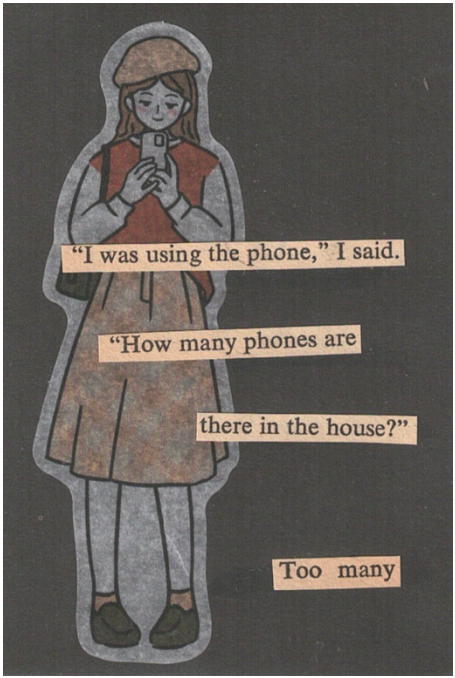
Is popular culture in terminal decline?

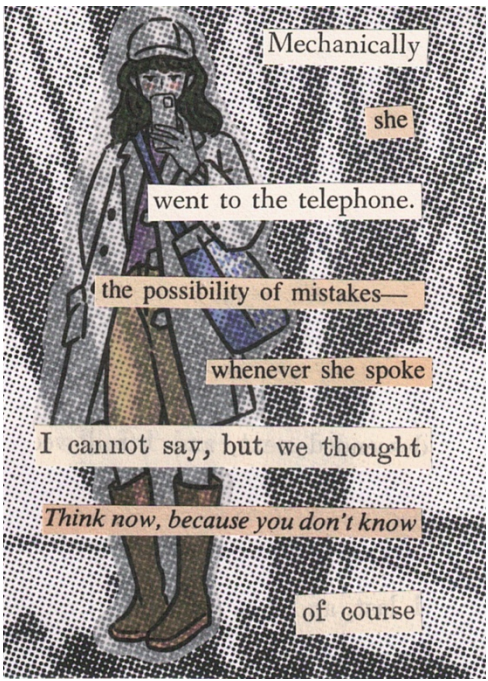

Recurring motifs
illuminated by a
faint glint
of apprehension
begin to appear.
within the frame,
Of course, I'm no psychic.


I called.
She
has not yet figured out—despite
the fact that we have had
mobile phones for decades—that
THERE IS NO
NEED TO TALK LOUD.
it's loud, even with
the ear protection.



"She could have basically called me if she felt some type of way" about the Facebook post, "She has my number."


"I was using the phone," I said.
"How many phones are
there in the house?"
Too many


Mechanically
she
went to the telephone.
the possibility of mistakes—
whenever she spoke
I cannot say, but we thought
Think now, because you don't know
of course

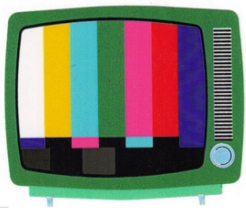
I was

wearing my bafflement as a blank stare.

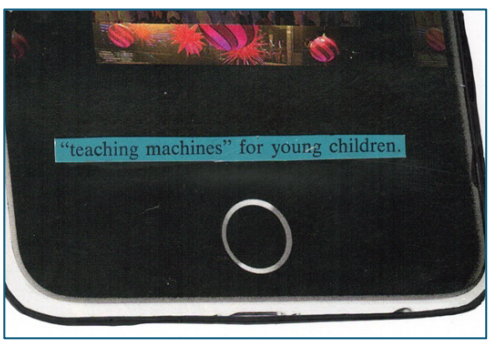
look about you.

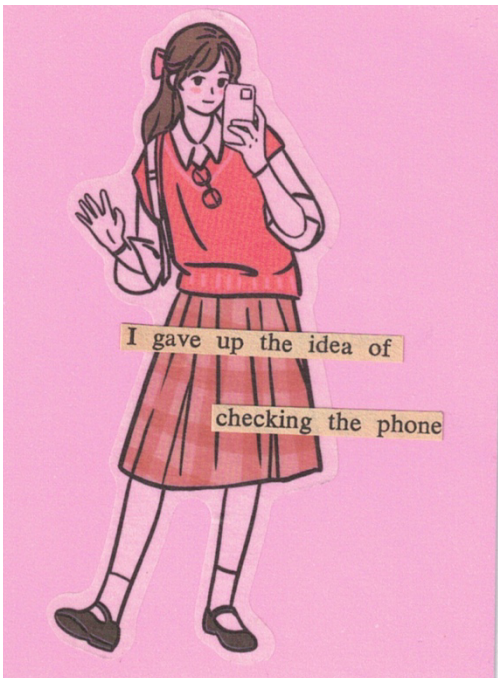
I squinted

What was *that*?



Neither of us knew

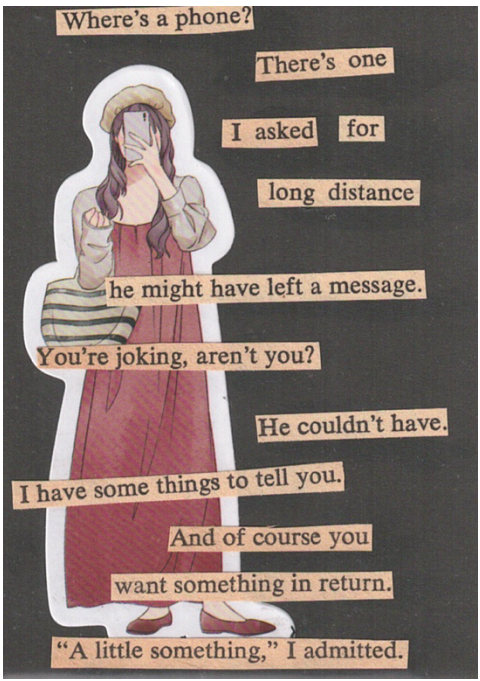


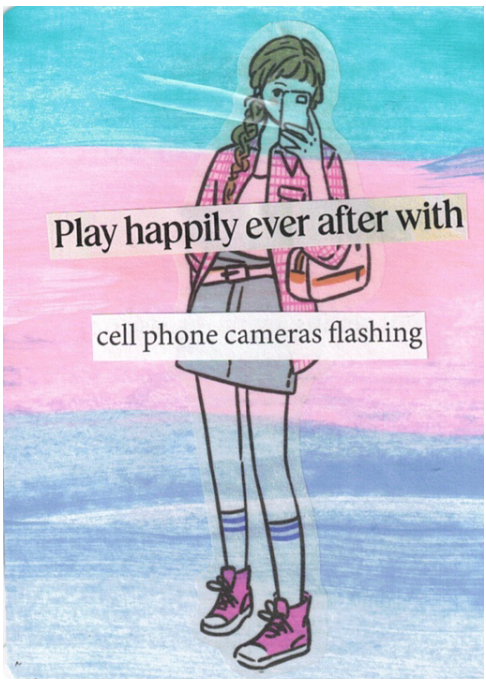

I gave up the idea of
checking the phone

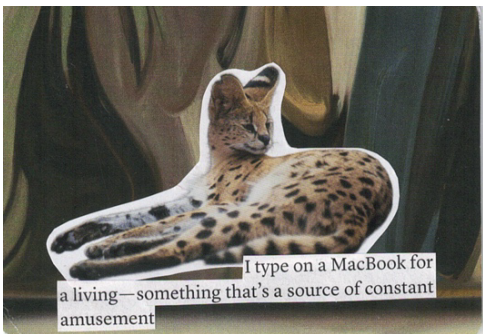
No risk, no reward.

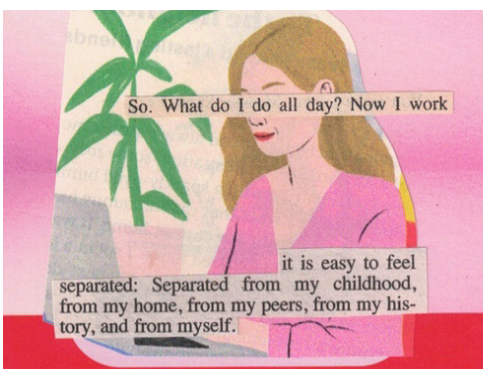
I felt like a failure — discouraged, angry, sad.

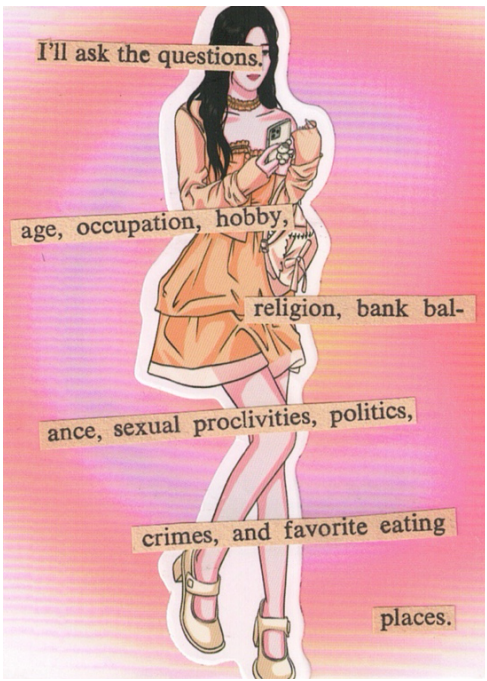
P.S. Not giving a fuck is also an option.


Where's a phone?
There's one
I asked for
long distance
he might have left a message.
You're joking, aren't you?
He couldn't have.
I have some things to tell you.
And of course you
want something in return.
"A little something," I admitted.

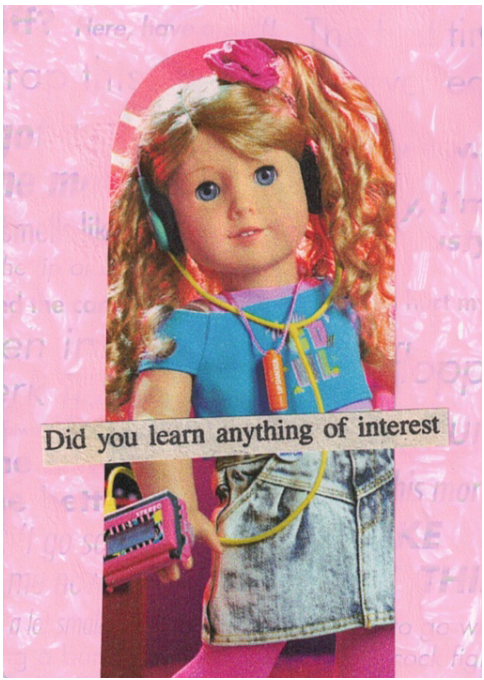

Play happily ever after with
cell phone cameras flashing

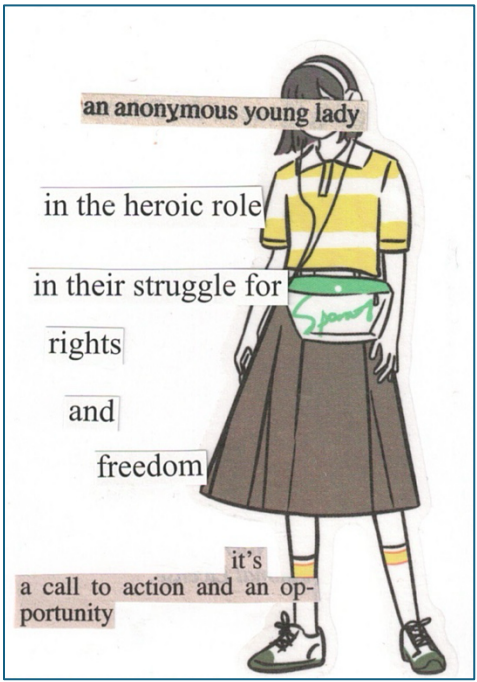

I type on a MacBook for a living—something that's a source of constant amusement


So. What do I do all day? Now I work
it is easy to feel separated: Separated from my childhood, from my home, from my peers, from my history, and from myself.


I'll ask the questions.
age, occupation, hobby,
religion, bank bal-
ance, sexual proclivities, politics,
crimes, and favorite eating
places.

don't send out dick
pics with your face in them
or face pics with your dick
in them,
weed out guys who
seem too good to be true
and be quick
to block guys who make you
feel uncomfortable


Did you learn anything of interest


an anonymous young lady
in the heroic role
in their struggle for
rights
and
freedom
it's
a call to action and an op-
portunity

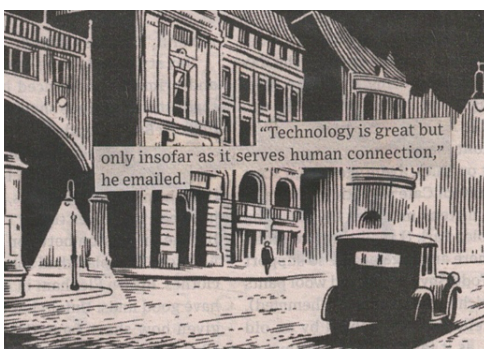
shown late

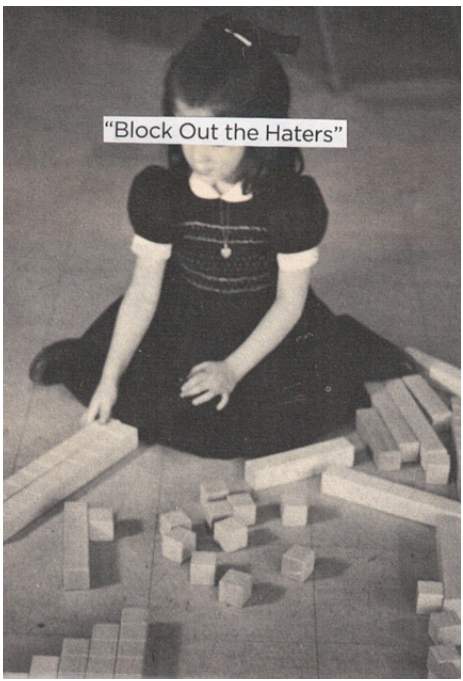
at night on

Black-and-white

television for

people who can't sleep.




"Block Out the Haters"

this anthology is dedicated to
supportive group chats &
necessary block parties &
declaring e-mail bankruptcy

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